

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 12

May 26, 2000

SUBJECT: BOOKING EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES-REVISED

PURPOSE: Preliminary investigations or encounters in the field involving explosive substances are one of the most potentially life threatening situations officers can face. The smallest of devices, however plain or innocuous in appearance, have the potential to injure, maim, or fatally wound when not properly handled.

Current Department procedure advises employees to contact the Explosives Section of Detective Support Division (DSD) prior to the handling or booking of suspected explosive substances. This procedure is still valid. This Order expands on the classification of explosive substances and advises Department employees on the revised booking procedures.

PROCEDURES: Explosive substances are classified as "Safe" or "Dangerous."

I. BOOKING "SAFE" EXPLOSIVES. "Safe" explosive items are booked in the same manner as any other property. A package containing a "Safe" explosive item shall be marked with large red letters indicating the type of explosive material contained, for example, "Fireworks," "Flares," or "Live Ammo." The types of "Safe" explosives are:

- * Fireworks—"Safe and Sane" types (bearing State Fire Marshal seal) and less than 10 pounds gross weight;
- * Emergency Highway flares/fusees; and,
- * Fixed ammunition and blank or saluting cartridges less than .50 caliber.

II. BOOKING "DANGEROUS" EXPLOSIVES. All other explosive substances are classified as "Dangerous" and shall only be recovered and booked by Explosives Section personnel. The Explosives Section technician who assumes custody of a dangerous explosive substance shall ensure that a Property Report, Form 10.1, is completed and distributed as soon as practicable. Common examples of "Dangerous" explosive substances are:

- * Fireworks not bearing the State Fire Marshal seal or with a gross weight of ten pounds or more;

- * Firecrackers and similarly constructed explosive devices that do not bear a State Fire Marshal seal, such as Cherry Bombs, M80's, and M100's;
- * Seal Bombs and bird distracters (Agricultural/wildlife types of fireworks);
- * Railroad Torpedoes; and,
- * Ammunition .50 caliber and larger.

Note: Officers recovering ammunition .50 caliber or larger shall contact DSD, Explosives Section, or the Department Command Post during off-hours. An Explosives Section officer will determine whether the recovered ammunition is considered "Safe" and can be booked at Property Division. In cases when an Explosives Section officer advises that the ammunition is considered "Safe" to book, officers shall note the name, rank, and serial number of the Explosives Section officer authorizing the booking in the Property Report, Form 10.1.

When investigating officers cannot determine the classification of a suspected explosive substance as "Safe" or "Dangerous," officers shall treat the suspected item as "Dangerous" and contact the Explosives Section of DSD or the Department Command Post during off-hours for advice.

AMENDMENTS: This Order amends sections 4/212.50 and 4/540.20 of the Department Manual.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Detective Services Group, shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



BERNARD C. PARKS
Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION "A"